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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/676,238	10/01/2003	Eugene B. Hinterscher	TI-36588	6404
23494	7590	06/07/2004	EXAMINER	
TEXAS INSTRUMENTS INCORPORATED			NGUYEN, HIEP	
P O BOX 655474, M/S 3999				
DALLAS, TX 75265			ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
			2816	

DATE MAILED: 06/07/2004

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

my

Office Action Summary	Application No.	Applicant(s)	
	10/676,238	HINTERSCHER, EUGENE B.	
	Examiner	Art Unit	
	Hiep Nguyen	2816	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --
Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 01 October 2003.
2a) ☐ This action is FINAL. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-24 is/are pending in the application.
4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-24 is/are rejected.
7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- 1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
2) ☐ Notice of Draftperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
3) ☒ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date 01102003.
4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____.
5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
6) ☐ Other: _____.

DETAILED ACTION

The abstract of the disclosure is objected to because it comprises more than one paragraph. Correction is required. See MPEP § 608.01(b).

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 112

The following is a quotation of the second paragraph of 35 U.S.C. 112:

The specification shall conclude with one or more claims particularly pointing out and distinctly claiming the subject matter which the applicant regards as his invention.

Claims 3-11, 13-20 and 22-25 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which applicant regards as the invention. Correction and /or clarification is required.

Regarding claims 3 and 22, the recitations “the activation element is configured to assert the Clamp Enable signal in response to the transition of the received signal that occurs during a period in which a Driver Disable signal is **asserted**” and “asserting the Clamp Enable signal in response to a transition of the received signal that occurs during a period in which a Driver Disable signal is asserted” are indefinite because they are misdescriptive. Regarding figure 4 of the present application, when the Driver Disable signal is **asserted** (low), transistors (41P) and (41N) are turned off, the circuit is in the tri-state mode and there is no Clamp Enable signal generated. The Applicant is requested to explain what “asserted” is meant by and what is the **level** of signal “Drive Disable” when “a Drive Disable signal is asserted”.

Claims 4-11, 13-20 and 23-25 are indefinite because of the technical deficiencies of claims 3 and 22.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

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Claims 1, 2, 11, 12 and 21 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Ishijima et al. (US Pat. 4,382,198).

Regarding claims 1 and 11, figure 3 of Ishijima shows an arrangement for dynamically clamping overshoot in a received signal on a signal line while not clamping the received signal at times when the overshoot is not likely encountered, the arrangement comprising:

- an activation element (26, 28) configured to assert a Clamp Enable signal to clamping portions (20, 22, 24) when overshoot is likely encountered in the received signal (col. 2, lines 29-32);

- a deactivation element configured to assert a Clamp Disable signal when overshoot is no longer likely encountered in the received signal (col.2, lines 21-28); and

- a clamping portion (22, 24) configured to clamp the received signal (V_i) beginning with the assertion of the Clamp Enable signal (switch means 22 is turned on) and ending with the assertion of the Clamp Disable signal (switch means 20 is turned off). The recitation “ A backplane-insertable circuit card that includes the arrangement of Claim 1” in claim 11 (also in claims 12-20) is merely intended use. Thus, it does not further limit the limitations of the claims. It has been held that a recitation with respect to the manner in which a claimed apparatus is intended to be employed does not differentiate the claimed apparatus from a prior art apparatus satisfying the claimed structural limitations. Therefore, this limitation has not been given patentable weight.

Regarding claims 2 and 12, figure 3 of Ishijima shows an arrangement for dynamically clamping overshoot in a received signal on a signal line while not clamping the received signal at times when the overshoot is not likely encountered, the arrangement comprising:

- an activation element (26, 28) configured to assert a Clamp Enable signal in response to a transition of the received signal ($V_i > V_1$);

- a deactivation element (30) configured to assert a Clamp Disable signal (the output of element 30) after the Clamp Enable signal is asserted (switch 20 opens after switch 22 closes); and

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a clamping portion (22, 24) configured to clamp the received signal (V_i) beginning with the assertion of the Clamp Enable signal and ending with the assertion of the Clamp Disable signal. The recitation “ A backplane-insertable circuit card that includes the arrangement of Claim 1” in claim 12 is merely intended use. Thus, it does not further limit the limitations of the claims. It has been held that a recitation with respect to the manner in which a claimed apparatus is intended to be employed does not differentiate the claimed apparatus from a prior art apparatus satisfying the claimed structural limitations. Therefore, this limitation has not been given patentable weight.

Regarding claim 21, figure 3 of Ishijima shows a method of dynamically clamping overshoot in a received signal on a signal line while not clamping the received signal at times when the overshoot is not likely encountered, the arrangement comprising:

asserting a Clamp Enable signal in response to a transition ($V_i > V_1$) of the received signal to close switch (22);

asserting a Clamp Disable signal after the Clamp Enable signal is asserted;
and

clamping the received signal beginning with the assertion of the Clamp Enable signal (switch 22 closes) and ending with the assertion of the Clamp Disable signal (switch 20 closes after switch 22 opens).

Allowable Subject Matter

Claims 3-11, 13-20 and 23-25 would be allowable if rewritten to overcome the rejection(s) under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph, set forth in this Office action and to include all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

Conclusion

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Hiep Nguyen whose telephone number is (571) 272-1752. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday to Friday from 7:30am to 4:00pm.

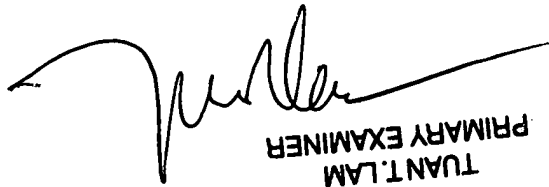
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If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Timothy Callahan can be reached on (571) 272-1740. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 703-872-9306.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

Hiep Nguyen

05-27-04

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